

Appl. No. 09/914,526  
Atty. Docket No. 7472  
Amdt. dated 6/28/2005  
Reply to Office Action of 4/8/2005  
Customer No. 27752

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a detergent particle comprising:
  - i) providing a particle core comprising a detergent active material, said core being an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices, and
  - ii) applying a water soluble, non-silicate, coating material comprising a mixture of alkali metal carbonate and sulfate in an aqueous or slurry form onto said core and drying said aqueous or slurry form to provide a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer comprising a said water soluble coating material, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material, whereby said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10% and wherein said detergent active material in said particle core comprises a blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients wherein said blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients comprises a blend of anionic surfactants and alkali metal carbonates.
- 2 – 3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The detergent particle process as claimed in Claim 3 ~~1~~, wherein said water soluble, ~~non-hydrating inorganic~~ coating material is the double salt  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4:\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  in a weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  of from about 80:20 to about 20:80.
5. (currently amended) The detergent particle process as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  is from about 75:25 to about 60:40.
6. (currently amended) The detergent particle process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said ~~particle~~ coating material in aqueous or slurry form layer further includes a detergent adjunct material selected from the group consisting of brighteners, pigments, chelants, nonionic surfactants, pH control ingredients, detergency co-builders and mixtures thereof.

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7 - 11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The ~~detergent particle~~ process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 20%.

13. (previously presented) The ~~detergent particle~~ process as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 30%.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A detergent particle comprising:

- i) a particle core comprising a detergent active material, said core being an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices, and
- ii) a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer comprising a water soluble coating material, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material; wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10% and wherein said detergent active material in said particle core comprises an anionic surfactant and a builder.